our fourfooted friends

Animal Rescue League of Boston • Fall 1991

Animal Rescue League of Boston

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Our Fourfooted Friends

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COVER:

Law enforcement agent Chris Wojtowicz checks a horse's condition on one of the League's routine inspections of stables in the area (see carriage horse story on page 4).

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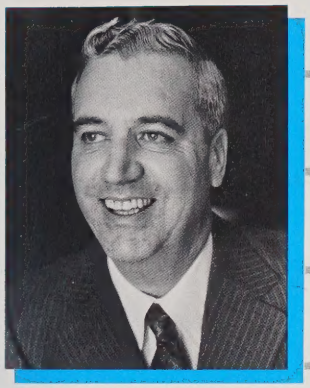


Arthur G. Slade, *President*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Expanding Humane Horizons

As we go through our day to day work in dealing with the great variety of problems with neglect and abuse of various types of animals, it becomes increasingly obvious that large animals, especially horses, are of major concern in a number of ways. More and more there is an awareness of such animals interacting with the society in which we live.

There are the apprehensions about race horses, riding stables, carriage horses, rodeo livestock, mock bullfights, and the list just goes on into food animal and dairy husbandry and circus and other performing animals.

Carriage horses are dealt with in another article on page 4 in this issue, so sufficient to note that an increasing number of large cities, including Boston, are having to deal with and attempt to regulate this increasingly popular activity.

The one species of animal most commonly housed in our barn at our Dedham site are horses. Neglect and abuse occurs in the public riding stable as well as the privately owned stable. Many times it relates to economic restraints in being unable to provide adequate food and bedding, and in other instances it relates more to a lack of understanding and knowledge of the needs of such creatures.

In yet another set of circumstances we must, it seems, come to grips with the harsh and cruel exploitation of animals for public amusement. Of particular worry are the animals used in rodeo events. It is interesting that rodeos occur in our area on a regular basis and thus cause us, as well as western states, to have a genuine concern for these shows. It is vital that we work diligently on behalf of the care and treatment of such animals.

We recognize and support the responsibility of local and regional humane organizations to inspect, regulate and enforce the laws regarding the prevention of cruelty to animals at rodeos, and such efforts are not to be construed as any sanction or endorsement of rodeos, their views, practices or the performance of rodeo events.

We encourage consultation and communication between humane organizations and any other responsible, qualified and reputable groups who demonstrate by their actions and policies a sincere and honest intent to substantially improve the proper care and treatment of all rodeo animals, and the elimination of events proven to be cruel and abusive to rodeo livestock.

In another arena, we have an exploitation about which there can be little question that it is cruel and abusive by its very nature. This is the so-called bloodless or mock bullfight. As I commented in our last issue, such bullfights show a growing interest in our country (including Massachusetts). Although the bull is not actually killed as in the Mexican and Spanish version, it is clearly the subject of cruel torment, harassment, taunting and incitement to great fear and fright. This is not an event which can be regulated within humane limits and should be prohibited in a legislative bill like Massachusetts House Bill 1579 which we strongly support. This legislation will effectively eliminate this abuse as a public event and the mistreatment involved in "conditioning" the bulls prior to the mock bullfights.

Clearly we have a multitude of challenges to deal with in the 1990s and they come at us at a time when interests are keen in both domestic animal issues as well as the real dangers to our wildlife and environment itself.

Such a commitment for the future can only become a successful reality with the continued fine moral and financial support we have received from our members and friends in the past. We appreciate your wonderful commitment and belief in the League and its future accomplishments.

Joe Lorden, who was Boston's first carriage driver, brings "Andy" back to the stand after a trip to the waterfront.

Are We Putting The Carriage Ahead of The Horse?

"Do not leave a horse standing in the hot sun if there is shade nearby. Do not leave him where he faces the sun, but turn him so that the glaring light will not be in his eyes. Do not leave him standing where he has to hold the weight of the vehicle he is harnessed in.

"When you drive your horse or put him in the stable, whatever you do with him, ask yourself if you are doing what you would like to have done to you if you were a horse."

Our Fourfooted Friends, 1902

Boston humanitarian Anna Harris Smith wrote these words almost ninety years ago, shortly after she founded the Animal Rescue League of Boston to guard the welfare of the city's domestic and large working animal population.

Today, the plight of the city's working horses is once again a focus of humane concern at the League.

A symbol of nostalgia and a popular tourist attraction, Boston's rapidly expanding horse-drawn carriage business has become not only a source of concern, but also a growing center of controversy.

Ten years ago, there was one horse-drawn carriage in the downtown area; today there are nine carriages, operated by three companies, driving tourists around the Faneuil Hall and waterfront areas. Drivers of these carriages have not been tested or licensed, despite 1980 Boston Transportation Department traffic rules which stipulate that a license be issued. In addition, there are no officially designated routes, so the sightseeing vehicles regularly drive through heavy traffic, and negotiate hazardous traffic intersections.

During the past year, animal activists have issued charges of abuse, claiming that operators are working the horses in excessive heat and humidity, piling too many passengers into the carriages, and failing to protect horses from traffic and exhaust. At the other opinion extreme are the carriage horse drivers themselves, who contend that their horses are well treated, and the allegations of abuse are totally unjustified. "It's almost like they can't wait for something awful to happen to one of the horses, so they can catch it on video," remarked Uptown Cab owner Darrell Zipp in a *Boston Herald* article. An organization called the Carriage Horse Action Committee, founded a year ago, has been working to document abuse, and stimulate public action.

As authorized inspectors of animals for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, League law enforcement agents carry the responsibility of monitoring horses that are kept for hire to ensure that animal welfare laws are not being violated.

The state law covering carriage horse operators requires that anyone operating a stable where horses are kept for hire be licensed. It also requires that the licensees comply with a variety of regulations concerning stable conditions, proper care and feeding, and fitness to work. Horses must be fed twice a day.

Horse-drawn carriages line up at Faneuil Hall on a busy tourist weekend.

Heading for the North End, horses regularly negotiate several lanes of dangerous traffic, crossing in front of the Callahan Tunnel.

Water must be offered at frequent periods throughout the day to working horses. Horses cannot be worked more than five consecutive hours without a one-hour rest period; nor can they be worked more than ten hours in one day. Drivers must operate at a speed that is "proper for the terrain, with due concern for the safety of horse and rider."

"The League's main concern is whether or not a horse is fit for work," explains League Law enforcement coordinator Alan B. Borgal. In making unannounced inspections of the animals over the past few years, League law enforcement agents have kept drivers from working sick horses, secured veterinary care for animals that were injured or ill, issued warnings to drivers who worked horses at excessive speeds or kept horses parked for long periods in hot trailers, enforced state licensing requirements, and investigated scores of complaints regarding overwork, shoe conditions, and hazardous operation in traffic. "In general, carriage operators have cooperated in correcting these problems, once they were pointed out," Borgal notes. "However, our main concern is that, without sufficient regulations in place, drivers are allowed to operate with no supervision, and no sanctions. You can't warn an operator that his driver's license will be revoked, if he doesn't have one to begin with," he explains. "And you can't cite a driver for exposing his horse to dangerous traffic if there are no legally designated routes."

City of Boston traffic rules covering carriage horses prohibit them from working between the hours of 7 to 9 a.m., and 4 to 6 p.m. on weekdays, require that they operate as closely as possible to the right-hand curb, and generally operate in compliance with the rules and regulations of the City of Boston Transportation Department.

Because neither city nor state laws set any temperature limits on carriage horse operation, these horses were on the streets during this summer's extreme hot spells, when temperatures regularly soared to the mid to high 90°'s. Veterinary studies have shown that horses suffer heat stress and dangerous dehydration when worked in high temperatures, particularly when the heat is combined with high humidity.

Another major concern is the lack of an organized rescue program, should a major accident occur. When a carriage horse broke down three years ago, at night, in front of the Hampshire House on Beacon Street, police and League agents labored for hours into the early morning, to no avail, trying to get the horse back on its feet. "Specialized equipment, an organized rescue plan with designated responsibilities, and the necessary funding should all be in place for such an emergency," Borgal stresses.

Most other cities that count carriage horse rides among their tourist attractions have enacted strict regulations governing their operation. Unfortunately, these measures have usually come after the fact, in response to tragedy and public outcry. New York City, for example, passed new laws last year restricting carriage horses to Central Park, and setting temperature and humidity ceilings, after one horse was killed in a traffic accident and another broke down in the heat. Both incidents were widely publicized and ignited public outrage. San Antonio, Texas recently enacted stricter carriage horse laws, restricting the animals to the Alamo area. On resort islands like Bermuda and the Bahamas, where horse-drawn carriages have long been a popular mode of transportation, regulations have always been a well-accepted fact of life. The rules governing the operation of hackney carriages in the Bahama Islands, for example, run for ten pages and cover every contingency, from carriage conditions to drunk driving.

"Everyone seems to be taking good care of their horses, it seems to me," according to Tim Lorden, owner of Boston Horse and Carriage, Inc., who doesn't think more laws are the answer. "If I'm putting a driver out, he's got to be experienced," says Lorden, whose father, Joe Lorden, was Boston's first carriage horse driver and has nearly fifty years' experience. "It's just common sense," he states.

Common sense, however, fails to prevail, in the opinion of Dr. Theodora Capaldo of Georgetown, president of the Carriage Horse Action Committee. "There is no city that has had expanded carriage horse activity without regulation that has not eventually had an accident involving injury to horses or people," she states. Calling on public officials in Boston to take responsible control of the carriage horse industry, she points out that "public safety and humane concerns are inseparable — if the horses are treated well, and driven safely, the passenger is also safer."

In September, officials of the League, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Carriage Horse Action Committee and other concerned individuals met to review the situation and develop a course of action. The League is calling for the enforcement of existing city licensing laws and traffic regulations; the expansion of state and city regulations to provide further protection from heat stress and other hazards; and the development and funding of a carriage horse rescue program.

Anyone who witnesses instances of carriage horse neglect or abuse, should alert the League's law enforcement department by calling (617) 426-9170.

To prepare for emergencies, the League has recently purchased some horse rescue equipment, including the sling being demonstrated here by law enforcement coordinator Alan Borgal and agent Jack Burns.

FAREWELL "FAIR NASHUA"

In December of 1984 the Animal Rescue League of Boston's law enforcement officers rescued a 12-year-old thoroughbred mare from an owner who was neglecting her health and keeping her in unsanitary conditions. The mare, "Fair Nashua," was found to be 300 pounds underweight, covered with sores from other horses kicking her, and was diagnosed as suffering from the chronic health problems of malabsorption syndrome and arthritis in her stifles. The owner was charged with cruelty to animals and eventually relinquished custody of Fair Nashua to the League.

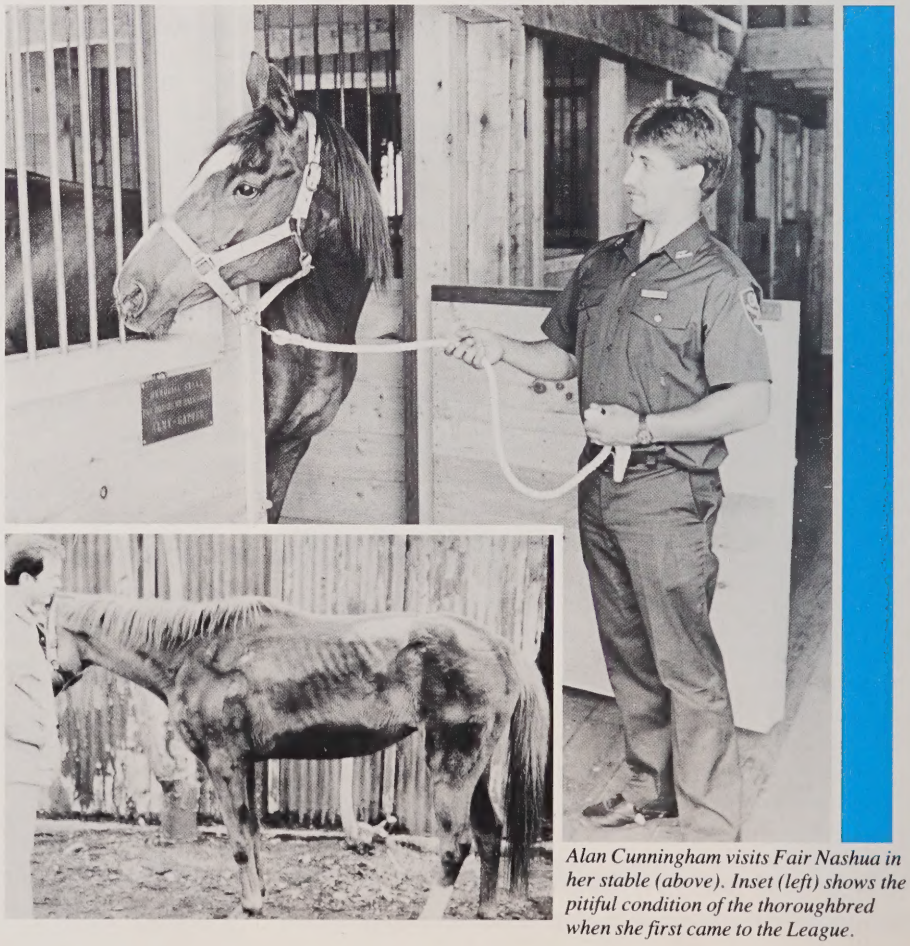
When Fair Nashua's background was traced it was discovered that she was the granddaughter of "Nashua," a famous racehorse and "one of the leading thoroughbred money earners in its day and sire to 76 stakes winners" (*Our Four-footed Friends,* Winter 1985). Fair Nashua's great-grandfather was "Nasrullah" and was owned by the Aga Kahn. Despite her famous bloodline, to the staff at the League's Dedham branch who cared for her, she was known simply as "Nash." Alan Cunningham, the barn manager at Dedham, thinks that Fair Nashua was special and says of her, "I think she knew about her heritage because she always had a certain prideful and spirited air about her."

The difficult years spent with her previous owner took their toll. She was not adopted to a new owner and spent the next seven years of her life being lavished with the expert care and loving kindness of the League staff, and Dr. Keith Hopkins, a large animal veterinarian. During those years Fair Nashua was a companion to many neglected farm animals that were also receiving protection at the League's Dedham branch. She was the highlight during many tours for school children where, as Alan Cunningham explains, "for some reason the kids loved it when I would fold back Nash's lip to expose her registration tatoo; that was always a big hit." Fair Nashua was gentle and patient with school children and adult visitors. However, the Dedham staff can recall times when "Nash's" thoroughbred spirit would flare. These spirited displays of temper would sometimes result in embarrassing confrontations for the staff, but even these stories are told with deep affection and understanding.

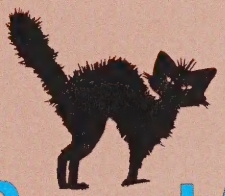
During the winter of 1989, Fair Nashua's health began to deteriorate, but aggressive medical attention and constant care from the Dedham staff restored her. After that incident however, the staff realized that "Nash" would not live forever so they needed a means for evaluating her health in an unbiased, non-emotional manner. Alan Cunningham explains their belief that "a pet should be euthanized when it is the *right time for the pet,* because there never will be a *right time for the person* who loves that animal." It was decided that the "right time" for Fair Nashua would be when she had to be maintained on pain killers or when Alan saw visually obvious signs of debilitation.

During June of this year, Fair Nashua started to go off her feed and off her feet and would lay in her stall at night and groan softly. By the beginning of July it was clear that to allow her to continue at her present rate of declining health would be "an injustice to her," according to Cunningham. On July 10, 1991, forty minutes before Dr. Hopkins was scheduled to arrive to euthanize her, Alan turned Fair Nashua out for one last romp in her paddock where he bid her a private farewell. She is buried in a secluded, shaded location directly behind the barn. "I come down to check on her every once in a while." Cunningham says as he motions toward Fair Nashua's grave. "It is hard, I still look to her stall sometimes and am surprised not to see her. I miss her voice in the morning and how she would call to me as I arrived," he explains.

At the head of the grave is a large flat stone that will eventually bear her epitaph. "I have an idea for how her headstone should read," Alan offers. "It could have her name, the dates she was with the League, and then *Always full of pride and spirit.* That is how I will remember her."



Alan Cunningham visits Fair Nashua in her stable (above). Inset (left) shows the pitiful condition of the thoroughbred when she first came to the League.



Magic Moments in a Day at Camp

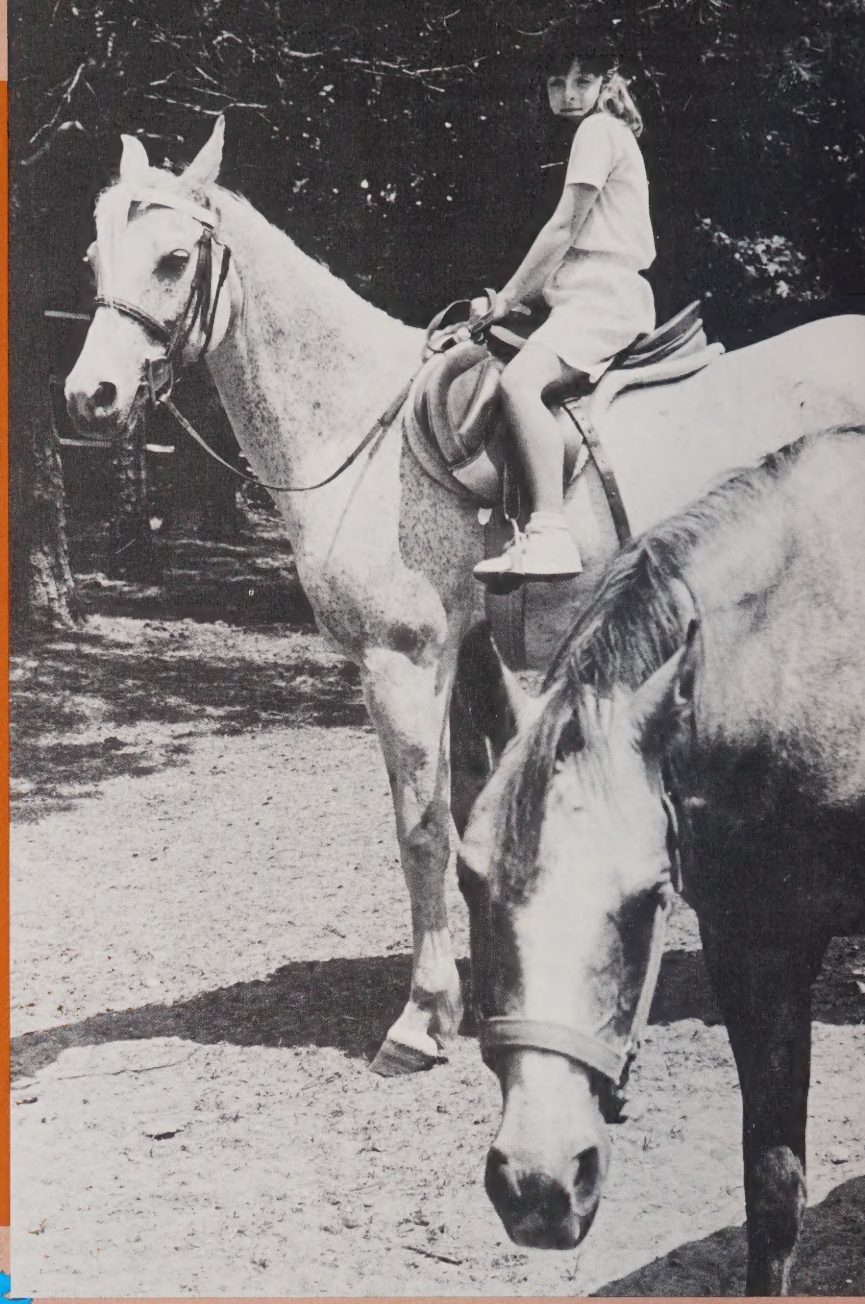
By Larry E. Palmer

At the Animal Friends Summer School in Cataumet, a fun-filled summer day often contains much more than spirited games and lots of hearty laughs. A day at camp, from camper drop-off in the morning to the folding of the flag in the afternoon, contains many subtle moments which create a special experience for each and every camper involved. Whether it be a special find during a shore walk, or simply helping up a friend who has taken a fall, each new day at camp always brings with it new experiences. It is moments like these which make the Animal Friends Camp a great place to be.

A day at camp begins with the ceremonial raising of the flag. Campers circle around the flag pole, recite the Pledge of Allegiance, and sing "My Country 'Tis of Thee" as the ensign is raised to the top of the mast. Campers take turns counting off the songs and often the happy face of a chosen camper is enough to brighten even the dreariest morning. Performing this ritual day in and day out for seven weeks may seem a bit repetitious, but just glancing into the eyes of the children once in a while as they sing the patriotic verses is enough to remind us that the future leaders of the country are in our hands (well, at least for the next three hours!!) The morning campers then summon up their best choo-choo noises for the exuberant single-file walk to Baxendale Hall for songs.

Song period is one part of the day which sometimes elicits the question: "Why are we doing this?" Well, the answer is simple. Songs such as the "Chewing Gum" song, "Joy to the World," and the "Little Green Frog" are just plain fun to sing. They relax us, they help everyone dig up some energy soon after rolling out of bed, and they put everyone in a good frame of mind for the day. Also, these songs often speak of happiness and kindness, two important words which may stick in a grumpy camper's (or counselor's) mind when hooked up to a catchy tune.

Another part of camp life is the daily activity period. Activity period calls upon the counselors to organize such spirited games as tag, duck-duck-goose, or even sharks 'n seaweed. During this period one can often catch a glimpse of a young camper discovering some of his/her own physical talents, or even learning a quick lesson in the benefits of good sportsmanship.



Jessica O'Connor, 8, shows her horsemanship skills.

Hungry goats gather for dinner, dispensed by Nina Steuris, 5.

The part of the day called class time is often the most rewarding period of all because the campers can choose classes based on their own interests and benefit from the enthusiasm of a particular counselor. Whether the activity be building a wooden stool, developing a perfect picture of the pigs, catching a glimpse of the occasional osprey, or even crossing a precarious 100-foot tightrope, each camper is bound to say with great pride "Wow, I didn't know I could do that!!" Others may find themselves with a great feeling inside after washing a horse, holding a fuzzy gerbil, or even

brightening the life of an elderly person with an animal visit and a quick conversation. There are thirteen class choices at camp and each one makes its point in its own special way.

Sports break is often the most enthusiastic part of the day as campers try to sink that elusive three-pointer, scratch out the big run in wiffleball, or even achieve the glorious double jump in jump-rope. The campers can choose games ranging from volleyball to badminton and each one offers its own particular excitement. The competition is fierce, but teamwork and sportsmanship are the names of the game.

The final component of a day at camp is the special event period. Guest speakers who often grace the hallowed hall of Baxendale might be Hattie the hearing dog, the park ranger who speaks of canal critters peacefully munching jellyfish, or even one of our very own counselors lecturing on subjects ranging from sign-language to water safety to naval operations. The possibilities are endless, as is the attention of the eager students.

There are also some special opportunities available to the older afternoon campers. For example, many campers experience some high-flying fun as they build, decorate, and launch their own model rockets. The benefits of this activity range from a new skill learned, to a quick lesson in disappointment when a rocket malfunctions and plunges helplessly into the pond. Other campers attempt to learn some of the finer techniques and RULES (say it isn't so) involved in team sports. Fun with Music is another option as musically inclined campers mimic the likes of Beethoven and Mozart on several different instruments. Finally, an old favorite is Dog Obedience as campers and their furry friends try to bridge the species gap by learning to sit, heel, and jump over small walls in a single bound.

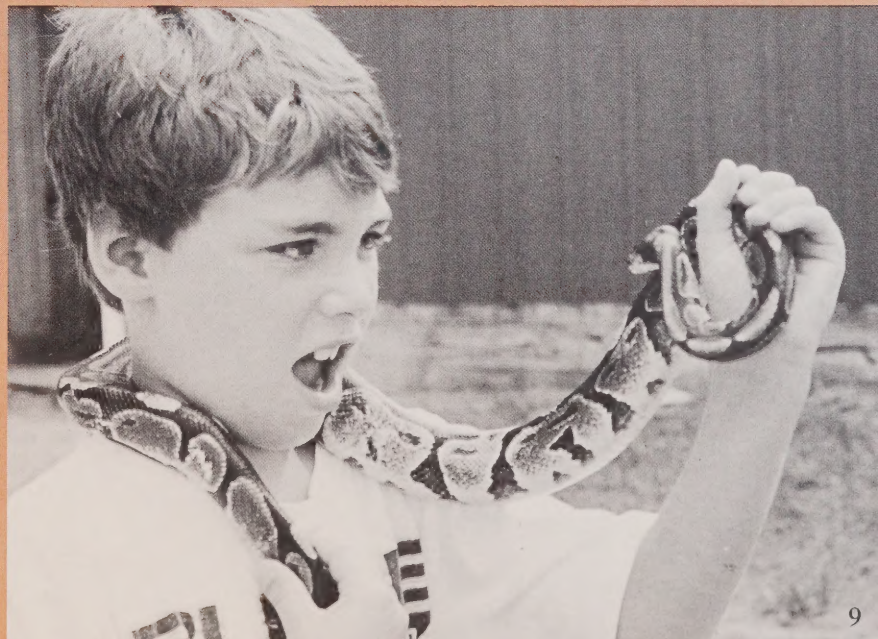
A day at camp is full of fun, excitement, and surprises. This article has merely scratched the surface of the daily possibilities. Through it all the campers are entertained, enriched, and educated about animals, and also about themselves. They are taught to lead a kind, happy, and enjoyable life. They leave camp feeling happy, and confident about their own abilities. They excitedly tell their parents about their day, and they proclaim, as did camper Elise LaPlante, "I can't wait to come back tomorrow!!!"

Feeding the farm animals was the favorite part of the day for Scott, 6, and sister Lauren Cartwright, 7.

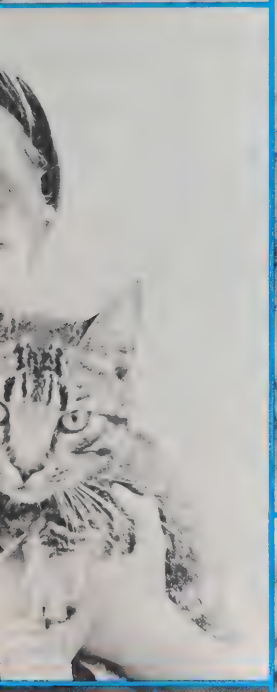
▲ *New friends are the best part of camp for Jessica Monroe-Wheeler, 6.*

▼ *This isn't what Charlie Whelan, 8, expected when he signed up for pet care!*

Alicia Chakour, 6, meets the two little pigs!



PETSHOW'91



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Overcast skies didn't daunt the fun for the children who attended the League's 39th Annual Pet Show, held July 27 at Nye field in North Falmouth. The League sponsors the show each year to recognize and encourage responsible pet ownership. Here are some of the outstanding pets and their young owners who competed for prizes in the event.

1. *Best of Show trophy winner ''Lady'' and her owner, Julie Felton, 14, are congratulated by judges (l to r): Edward Powers, Thomas White, League president Arthur Slade, and past president Carlton Buttrick.*

2. *Cathy Schutten, 7, hugs ''Moonshine'' after the guinea pig won the red ribbon in the miscellaneous pet group.*

3. *Michael Shaw, 7, congratulates his pal ''Buddy,'' who captured Best Tailwagger honors.*

4. *''Inky,'' owned by Kelly Aniello, 12, won two first prize ribbons, as top dog, and number one in dog obedience.*

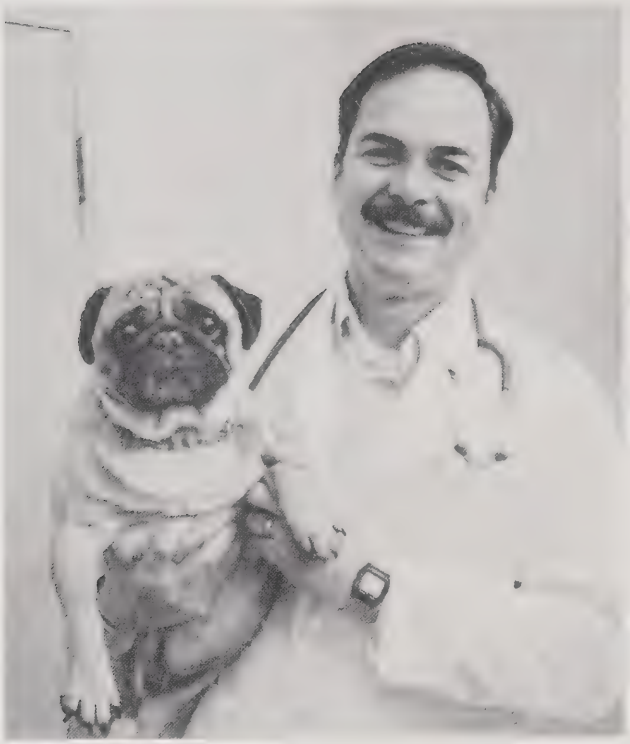
5. *Jon Morley, 11, hugs his dog ''Scotch'' who placed second in the puppy category.*

6. *''Nellie,'' owned by Kelly Lovett, 10, took second place in dog obedience.*

7. *Katie Plumb, 8, is proud of her tiger cat ''Wilbur'' who won a red ribbon in the cat competition.*

8. *''Smokey,'' owned by Ariel Lannen-Dobie, 11, placed second in the kitten category.*

9. *''Vicki,'' a dwarf hamster owned by Pam Varley, 11, inspects her blue ribbon after winning first place in the miscellaneous pet group.*



A Veterinary Update:

Starting from Scratch

By Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M.

One of the questions most frequently asked by pet owners is: "My dog keeps scratching — what should I do?"

Itching is one of the most common presenting complaints. While the first culprit suspected is usually the flea, this symptom can be present in a variety of diseases, ranging from allergies to very serious diseases such as heartworm or systemic lupus erythematosus. The presence — and degree — of itching can also be an important factor in the diagnosis of many different skin diseases.

Because a pet owner's idea of the intensity of itching can differ considerably from that of the veterinarian, it is helpful in diagnosis if the owner is prepared to report specific details. Your veterinarian, for example, may ask such questions as: "How many times daily do you see your dog scratch?" "Does he itch in many sites, or just a few?" "Does he shake his head?" "Does he lick his paws?" If he suspects an allergy, your veterianian will also inquire about your pet's recent diet, or any changes in its environment.

Why does pruritis — or itching — occur? The skin is richly endowed with a network of sensory nerves and receptors; however, a specific surface organ for itching has not been identified. Sensations are carried by nerve fibers to the sensory cortex in the brain, where the itch sensation may be modified by emotional factors, or even competing sensations. At present, it has not been possible to isolate a chemical agent to explain itching, but certain enzymes are thought to be a major factor of itching in dogs, cats and humans. Other factors, such as anxiety or boredom, or competing sensations (pain, heat, cold, etc.) can reduce or magnify the sensation. For example, itching is often worse at night when other sensory input is low. Although the mechanism is not clearly understood, it is thought that stressful conditions can also trigger itching.

There are a number of things that you can do to relieve your pet's discomfort until you can see the veterinarian. Though several agents promise temporary relief of itching, no really satisfactory medication exists. Corticosteroids can offer help, but they are not without risk. Antihistamines that are administered internally can be useful, but they should be used only on the advice of your veterinarian. Anesthetics, including those that can be sprayed on the skin, may provide relief but they can also be toxic, and can cause allergies of their own.

Cool wet dressings, ice packs, or cool or warm water baths may be helpful for a period of hours to days. These methods provide relief basically by substituting some other sensation, such as heat or cold, for the itching. Be sure to protect the skin from external damaging influences such as scratching, biting, trauma, pressure and irritants. This can be done by using bandages, if necessary, or an impermeable protective agent like vaseline.

If itching is accompanied by redness, irritation or swelling, be sure to have your pet examined by a veterinarian as quickly as possible.

Heartworm Reminder

If your dog is on daily doses of heartworm medication, don't forget to continue the medication until two months after the mosquito season has ended. In New England, this means that treatment should continue into early December. For dogs that are on monthly medication, the treatment can be discontinued one month after the mosquito season ends, usually with the November dosage.

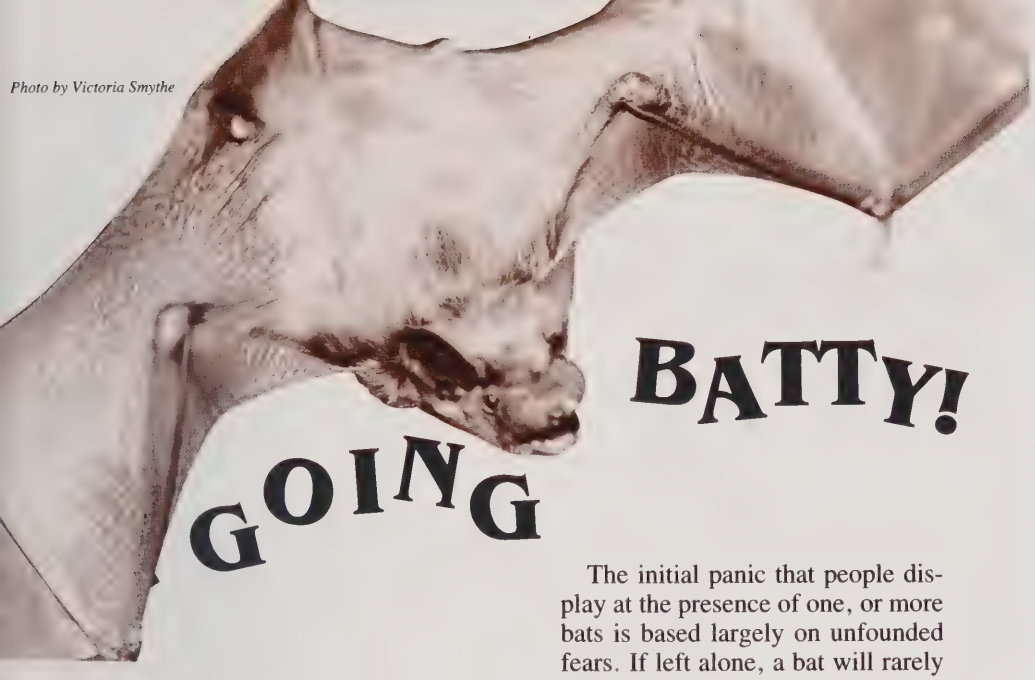


Photo by Victoria Smythe

This big brown bat is one of the species most commonly found inside buildings in Massachusetts.

GOING BATTY!

Batman costumes, bat t-shirts, and other bat memorabilia were all the rage not long ago, but the real-life creature of the night that inspired the fad is far less popular.

Throughout the year, League agents respond to emergency calls dealing with a variety of wildlife, but no calls are as frantic as those that come in each summer seeking help with a bat that has invaded the living quarters.

Bats may fly like birds, and look like rodents, but they are actually more closely related to primates, with wings that consist of skin stretched over four elongated fingers. These nocturnal creatures are beneficial to mankind, and it is against the law in Massachusetts to kill a bat. One bat can eat as many as 600 flying insects, including mosquitoes, in an hour. In the Boston area, Dr. Thomas Kunz of Boston University estimates that 14 to 15 tons of insects are consumed each summer by the 50,000 big brown bats that live within the Route 128 perimeter.

Despite their contributions to the environment, and the fact that their existence is threatened by loss of habitat, pesticides and human aggression, it is highly unlikely that bats will ever come to be viewed as welcome house guests. Invariably, when people turn to the League with bat-related problems, their first question is: ''How do I get rid of them?''

The initial panic that people display at the presence of one, or more bats is based largely on unfounded fears. If left alone, a bat will rarely attack a human. If it is trapped in a room, a bat will lose its flight momentum when it comes to a wall and must turn. When this happens, it swoops down quickly to regain flight speed and control, and this dive can be mistaken by someone in the middle of the room as a bat attack, according to Victoria Smythe of Wild Again, Inc., an organization in Bridgewater devoted to wildlife rehabilitation. According to an article in their newsletter titled ''Truth about Bats,'' public health records indicate that in four decades, only 16 people in the United States and Canada have died of a disease from a bat, which places the odds of being killed by a bat at much less than one in a million.

Between 1961 and 1984, a total of 196 rabid bats were documented by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, but during this same period, in the U.S. and Canada, a total of only ten cases were recorded in which bats transmitted rabies to human beings. Household pets however, especially cats which climb and stalk the creatures, have been known to contract rabies from bat encounters. Cat owners should take special care to keep their pets away from the area if they suspect that a bat colony has set up housekeeping in the attic.

There are nine species of bats around Massachusetts but, of these, only two — the big brown bat and the little brown bat — are likely to be found inside buildings. If a single bat is flying around the house, the easiest way to evict it is to close off the room containing the bat, open a window and wait for it to fly out, which should be in a matter of minutes. If possible, you should stay in the room with the lights on and watch to be sure that the bat leaves. If the bat has hidden somewhere in the room, turn the lights off, leave the room, close the door, and block the space under the door with towels. Again, the bat should find its way out the open window within a short time after dusk.

If a bat has landed on something, you can remove it by covering it with a thick towel, picking it up and releasing it outdoors. Or, use leather gloves to pick it up. Never attempt to pick up a bat with bare hands, or even wearing thin gloves.

Getting rid of a bat colony is somewhat more difficult. The first and most important step is to locate the opening where the bats are entering and exiting by setting up a watch between 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after sunset. In spring or late summer and early fall, you can block up these entrances after dusk when all of the bats are out. At any other time of year, however, it is unlikely that all of the bats will be away at the same time. In summer, there are likely to be baby bats present; in late fall or winter, some or all of the bats in the colony will be dormant because they hibernate in the cold months. If the entrances are blocked while bats are inside, they will either die there or wind up in the living quarters while searching for other exits.

Detailed instructions for eliminating a bat colony are available in a booklet titled ''A Homeowner's Guide to Massachusetts Bats and Bat Problems,'' published by the Commonwealth's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. For those who wish to offer alternative lodgings to displaced bats, bat boxes can be set up in areas where insects are abundant, preferably near wet areas. Instructions for building such boxes are also available from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Massachusetts Audubon Society in Lincoln sells bat boxes, as well as kits to build them.

NEWSFRONT

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

SEMINAR SPOTLIGHTS WILDLIFE RESCUE TECHNIQUES

Norman Smith, acting director of the Blue Hills Trailside Museum, demonstrates methods of handling injured wildlife for League agents and animal control officers attending a seminar on wildlife rescue and handling, sponsored by the League and Trailside Museum this summer. Other speakers included Dr. Thomas French, assistant director, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife; Gwilym Jones, Ph.D., professor of biology, Northeastern University; Paul Etkind, M.P.H., assistant state epidemiologist, Massachusetts Department of Public Health; Dr. Sedgewick, associate professor, Tufts University; and Cindy McElwain, information services supervisor, Massachusetts Audubon Society.

AIRLINES GROUND WILD BIRD SHIPMENTS

Northwest Airlines agreed last spring to stop carrying wild-caught birds, following a similar decision earlier by Lufthansa Airlines, which was formerly the world's largest carrier of wild birds. The Lacey Act prohibits U.S. import of wildlife that has been captured illegally, but it has been estimated that 85% of the half million birds brought into the U.S. by plane each year have been caught in the wild. Many of these birds, including several parrot species that are listed as threatened or endangered, are captured illegally in countries that ban export, then shipped through third countries to the U.S. Some states, such as New York, have enacted laws that ban the import and sale of all wild-caught birds, and national legislation has been proposed that would phase out such imports over a five-year period.

A DAY AT THE FAIR

The annual pet show sponsored by the League at the Barnstable County Fair once again drew crowds of eager contestants. Judges at the event, held July 25th, included League staff members Sandra Luppi, Lynda Brogden, Mark Williamson and Terrie Bierig-Neyland.

Photo by Walter Hoey, courtesy of Lynn Item

A DEER HUNT IN LYNN

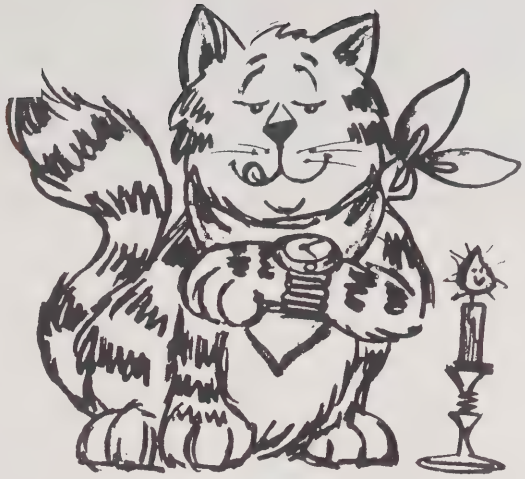
After an early morning hunt through Lynn city streets, this wild deer was taken into custody in June by James Stasio (right), manager of the League's Sheldon Branch in Salem, and Lynn patrolmen Oscar Martinez and Jack Marr. The full-grown doe, thought to be the same animal spotted earlier in the week in Marlbehead and Swampscott, was taken to the League shelter and later turned over to state wildlife officials.

DINNER DELIVERED TO "HOME ALONE" CATS

Cat owners who sometimes have to work late, or go on an overnight trip, can be assured that their pet's dinner will be delivered, fresh and on time, with the aid of one of the new automatic pet feeders now on the market. One such product, the Cat Mate C50 automatic pet feeder, will serve up to five meals at normal feeding times, and is equipped with a 96-hour electronic timer. Moist food is kept fresh with twin ice packs.

HEARING DOG CENTER MARKS A DECADE OF SERVICE

Congratulations to Red Acre Farm Hearing Dog Center in Stow, which marked its 10th anniversary with an open house celebration Sunday, September 29. During the past decade, the Center has trained scores of abandoned dogs, including many League shelter animals, to act as "ears" for deaf and hard of hearing people. Hearing dogs alert their masters to everyday sounds such as the doorbell or knock, alarm clock, smoke alarm, baby cry and telephone. Red Acre Farm provides dogs free of charge to qualified applicants. For more information, call (508) 897-8343 (Voice/TTY).



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NEW SHELTER MANAGER

Katherine Dwyer was appointed in August as manager of the League's Boston shelter. Shelter manager for the M.S.P.C.A.'S Brockton shelter for the past four years, Ms. Dwyer brings to her new post many years of experience in the animal field, including service as an ambulance driver for the M.S.P.C.A., and as a veterinary technician at local animal hospitals.

BAD BEHAVIOR CITED AS NO. 1 REASON FOR PET ABANDONMENT

Behavioral problems such as aggression and urination or defecation in the house cause more people to get rid of their pets than any other reasons, including illness, according to a study reported at the annual convention of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), held in July. Many of these problems could easily be managed, treated or eliminated, according to Victoria Voith, D.V.M., who presented the results of a four-year study by the Animal Behavior Clinic at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Voith told the audience that aggressive behavior in cats is the second most common complaint of owners who sought help at the clinic. "The three most common types of aggression directed toward people are fear-induced aggression, playful aggression, and redirected aggression, which occurs when an animal is in an aroused state but is prevented from attacking its original target, usually another animal," Dr. Voith explained. Most cases can be treated, or managed, if the owners would take the time to deal with them, she concluded.

FAMILY REUNITED

Shelter agent Al Martin has his hands full with some of the eight puppies recently reunited with their mother (right) after being rescued from a burned out building in Dorchester. League agents found the pups on Sunday, August 25, when they responded to reports of a dog howling in the abandoned building, but they could not locate the mother that day. Returning the following morning, they found the mother and brought her to the League where, despite her thin and starving condition, she bypassed a bowl of food to run to her puppies. More than 200 people contacted the League after the story ran in the paper wanting to adopt mother or pups, all of whom are now in new homes.

Photo by Arthur Pollack, courtesy of Boston Herald

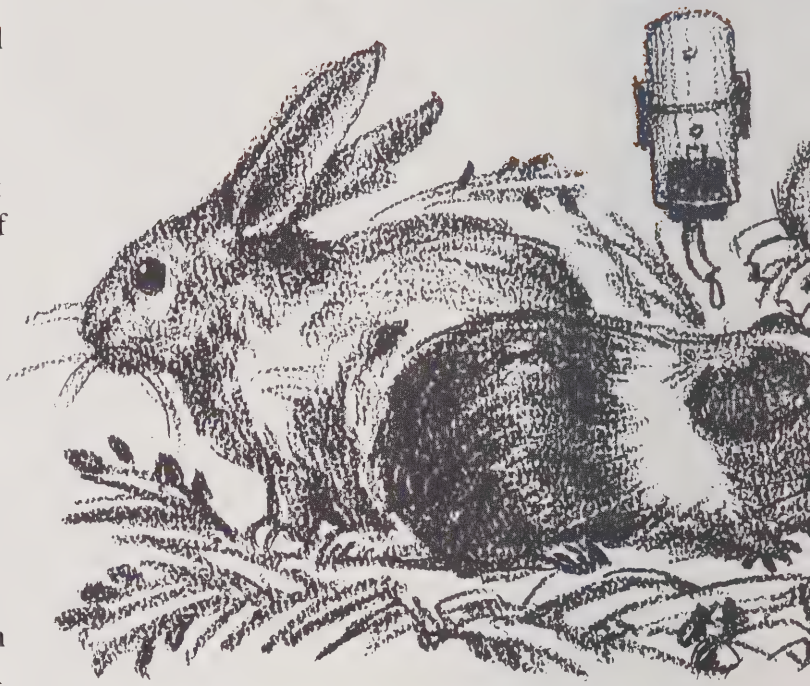
Furry Little Friends

Many people who live in apartments or small homes do not have enough room to keep a large pet such as a dog. People who work or go to school all day may not have enough time to properly care for a dog or cat. This, however, does not mean that they cannot enjoy the companionship of a warm cuddly animal.

Rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, and even mice are part of the **domestic** small animal world that make wonderful pets. Generally they require less time, money, and room to care for than a larger pet would. This can make them ideal pets for people who do not have the time or space for larger pets. However, as with every pet, it is just as important that they receive proper care and attention.

Here are some of the things you need to do in order to take proper care of a small pet. First of all *be gentle*! These animals can become easily frightened or hurt if they are handled wrong. They also may bite or scratch you if they are upset or nervous. You need to make sure you feed your pet a balanced diet based on what that pet needs. Plenty of fresh, clean water should be available to your pet at all times. Provide your pet with a cage large enough to allow him room to roam about and to get plenty of exercise. The cage should be made out of a hard plastic or metal that your pet cannot chew through or climb out of. Make sure the cage allows plenty of air in and keep it in a warm, quiet spot away from drafts. Place a soft layer of bedding materials, such as hay or wood shavings, on the cage floor for your pet to sleep on. Don't forget to keep the cage, water bottle, and food dish clean.

Rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, and mice all have front teeth that never stop growing. To keep their teeth from growing too long they must chew on something hard. Give them a piece of hard wood to **gnaw** on. Make sure that the piece of wood is clean and does not have paint on it. Playtime is also a must for these animals. You can find many toys for them at pet stores and you can give them cardboard tubes to use as tunnels.



Just make sure that whatever you put in their cage cannot hurt them. Guinea pigs and rabbits should be let out of their cage every day for exercise. But keep a close eye on them so that they don't get into anything that can hurt them and make sure they don't chew on any electric wires. If your pet ever gets injured or sick, tell your parents right away so they can take the animal to the veterinarian. Keep your pets clean by brushing them regularly, and check their toenails to make sure that they do not become overgrown.

When choosing a pet, be sure you get it from a good pet shop or animal dealer. Make sure that the animals you choose have not been crowded together in a small cage. This often makes them mean and nasty. The cages should be clean and have fresh food and water available. The animals should be alert and curious. Make sure that the animal you choose is friendly and looks healthy. If you choose more than one small pet, do not place a male and female together, unless you want to find homes for many **offspring**! These small animals can produce a large number of babies in a short time. If you want more than one animal buy two females from the same litter that are used to living together already. Remember, never try to

FRIENDS

make a pet of a wild animal. Wild animals are used to taking care of themselves and do not do well when kept in a cage. They also are not used to being around people so they may bite.

Rabbits

Rabbits are gentle and quiet animals. They are also the biggest of the small pets so they need the most room and the most care. Be careful when handling a rabbit. They have sharp claws and powerful back legs that can scratch hard!

Rabbits can be kept indoors in a cage or outside in a sturdy rabbit hutch. If kept in a hutch, they need to have a draft-free enclosure, with shavings or hay bedding, to provide them proper shelter from the weather. The hutch should also be high enough off the gound to keep them out of reach of dogs and other animals.

Guinea Pigs

Guinea pigs are medium-size animals that are easy to take care of. They often greet their human friends with squeals and whistles. If you plan to spend a lot of time with your guinea pig then it is best to adopt just one, so that it develops a strong attachment to you. However, if your guinea pig will be alone most of the time then you should consider adopting two, as guinea pigs are happier when they have a companion. Beware of keeping a male and female together because they will produce many offspring.

Hamsters and Gerbils

Hamsters usually sleep during the day and run around at night. This is called being **nocturnal**. Hamsters also like to live alone, if you have more than one in a cage, they may fight.

Gerbils are more active during the day time and, unlike hamsters, do enjoy the company of other gerbils. So you may want to consider keeping more than one. However, do not keep a male and female together unless you are prepared to care for many babies.

Mice

Mice are the smallest of these caged pets. They are very friendly and active. Be gentle, these animals are small and it is easy to hurt them. They will bite if handled roughly or when frightened. Wild mice do not make good pets so adopt only domesticated mice.

Small animals may require less time, room, and money to care for than a larger pet. However, they still are a big responsibility and need proper care, love, and attention just like any pet. These furry little friends, when treated right, make excellent pets for any animal lover.

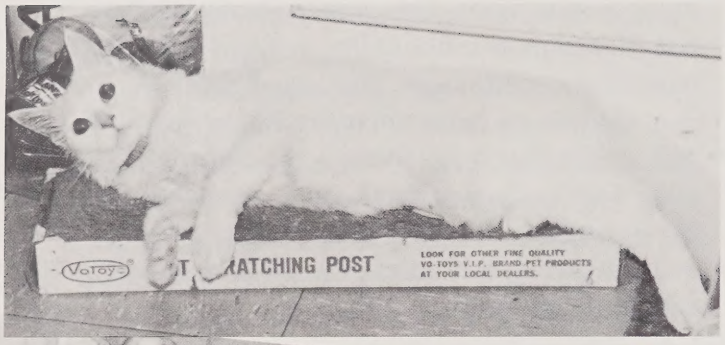
You can find out more about how to care for these animals by requesting the Small Pets brochure from the Animal Rescue League, or from books at a local library or bookstore.

VOCABULARY WORDS

Domestic – not wild, tame
Gnaw – bite at and wear away
Offspring – the young of a person or animal
Nocturnal – active in the night

PETS IN THE PICTURE

1



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1 "'Penny' (top) is quiet, sweet, and loves to tease 'Suzie,' who is wild, crazy, and loving," according to Deborah Owen of Bedford who adopted both cats this past spring. "They are real pals — they protect each other, and love to wrestle!"

2 "Buttercup" strikes a seductive pose for owner Patricia Murray of Cambridge, who found the deaf kitten two years ago abandoned on a busy street. "She is a delightful cat who does just fine with my other two cats, and isn't handicapped by deafness at all (in fact, it means she doesn't have to listen to me scold her when she wakes me up at 4 a.m.)." Ms. Murray sent along a donation in Buttercup's honor to help other disabled animals.

3 "It has been just three weeks yesterday, but we feel like she has been with us forever," according to Barbara Johnson of Woburn who recently adopted "Mandy" from the League. "What a dog! She is just filled with personality and charm, and so smart. Already, she is learning phrases — yesterday I said 'go get your rope,' and a few minutes later she brought her play rope to me. She has captured our hearts, and those of our friends."

4 "Frosty" relaxes with owner Diane Lagasse at his new home in Sound Beach, N.Y. "My daughter and her husband genuinely love Frosty and I'm sure he's found a great home finally," writes Diane's mother, Paula Sette of Walpole, who arranged the adoption through the League's Dedham shelter. "He even gets to swim and play in Long Island Sound," she adds.

5 "Hanna" is a beautiful, lovable, healthy kitten," writes Elizabeth Moeller of Somerville. "She loves our other cat 'Nikko' as well, as you can see from this photo." Both cats were adopted from the League, five months apart.

6 Jean Dunham of South Dennis shares this photo of her golden retriever puppy "Dennis," in the hope that it "will bring a smile to your readers."

5

6

COME TO THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON'S

To Benefit Homeless Animals

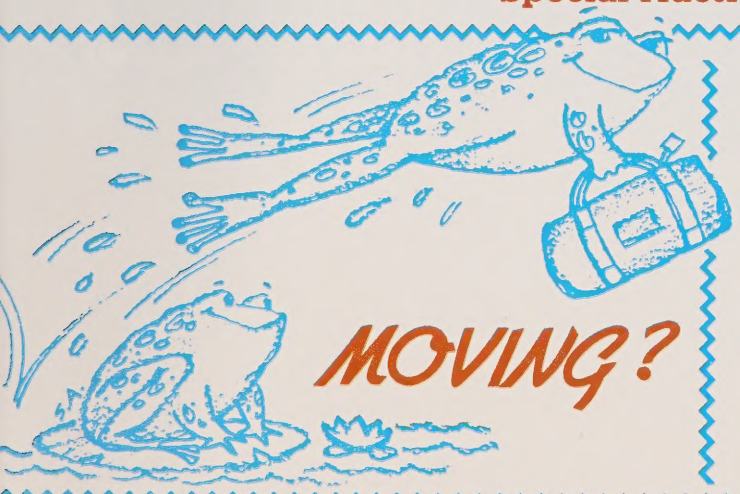
Thursday, October 17, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Corner of Arlington & Tremont Sts. Boston

Gift Tables • Baked Goods • Shelter Tours

Demonstrations by Boston Police Horses & Dogs

Special Auction at 12 Noon



MOVING?

Please let us know if you're planning to move so we can be sure that you receive OUR FOURFOOTED FRIENDS without interruption.

Old Address:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State_____ Zip_____

(please print or attach mailing label)

New Address:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State_____ Zip_____

Please allow two months for us to correct our mailing list.

AMBER WAVES OF GRAIN — "Heidi" surveys America on a cross-country trip.

Photo by Susan M. Tetrault of Peabody

Our Fourfooted Friends (US ISSN 0030-6851)
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, Massachusetts 02117